

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-23 (canceled)

24. (new) A method of adding layers to a material web, comprising the steps of:
applying at least one first layer of a first application medium to a material web; and
applying at least one second layer of a second application medium to said material web,
each of said first application medium and said second application medium being one of a liquid
5 medium and a pasty medium, at least one of said first application medium and said second
application medium having a solids content in an approximate range of 2% by weight to 70% by
weight, at least one of said first application medium and said second application medium having a
Brookfield viscosity determined at 100 rev/min of between about 10 mPas and about 2000 mPas.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first application medium has a first
water retention capacity, said second application medium having a second water retention
capacity, said first water retention capacity being lower than said second water retention capacity.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first application medium has a first
density, said second application medium having a second density, said first density being at least
about 10% greater than said second density.

27. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first application medium has a first
viscosity, said second application medium having a second viscosity, said first viscosity being
greater than said second viscosity.

28. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of said first application medium and said second application medium is one of an aqueous solution and an aqueous dispersion of solid particles.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said at least one of said first application medium and said second application medium is one of an acrylate dispersion and a butadiene-styrene dispersion.

30. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said solid particles are one of mineral pigments and microscopic plastic particles.

31. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said solid particles are one of plastic pigments, ink-filled microcapsules and starch.

32. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first application medium is used for forming a barrier layer, said first application medium having at least one of said following properties:

a solids content in an approximate range of 2% by weight to 30% by weight;

5 a Brookfield viscosity determined at 100 rev/min of between about 10 mPas and about 150 mPas; and

a density of between about 0.8 g/cm³ and about 1.1 g/cm³.

33. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first application medium is a starch solution.

34. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said first curtain applicator unit is configured for applying an amount of said first application medium applied to said moving base, said amount being between about 2 ml/m² and about 20 ml/m².

35. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said second application medium is a dispersion of ink-filled microcapsules, each of said microcapsules having a microcapsule diameter associated therewith, said second application medium having at least one of said following properties:

5 each of said microcapsules having a microcapsule diameter of between about 5 μm and about 12 μm;

a solids content of between about 20% by weight and about 50% by weight; and

a Brookfield viscosity determined at 100 rev/min of between about 100 mPas and about 400 mPas.

36. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said second application medium is applied to a moving base at between about 5 ml/m² and about 30 ml/m².

37. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said applying at least one first layer step and said applying at least one second layer step are carried out by an apparatus, said apparatus including:

a first curtain applicator unit including a first discharge nozzle, said first curtain applicator
5 unit discharging the first application medium through said first discharge nozzle in a form of a
first curtain onto a moving base, said first curtain moving substantially under the force of gravity;
and

a second curtain applicator unit including a second discharge nozzle, said second curtain
applicator unit discharging said second application medium through said second discharge nozzle
10 in a form of a second curtain onto said moving base, said second curtain moving substantially
under the force of gravity, said first applicator unit being positioned relative to said second
applicator unit such that a spacing of about 100 mm to about 500 mm separates said first curtain
and said second curtain.

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38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein at least one of said first curtain applicator
unit and said second curtain applicator unit applies said first application medium and said second
application medium, respectively, to said moving base in a substantially finally metered manner.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of producing one of a
vacuum and a positive pressure with a pressure-differential device, said pressure-differential
device being operatively positioned between said first curtain applicator unit and said second
curtain applicator unit.

40. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein each of said first curtain and said second
curtain has a curtain flow path and a curtain width associated therewith, said apparatus further
comprising at least one guide element, each said guide element being arranged within said curtain

- 5 flow path of one of said first curtain and said second curtain, each said guide element guiding one of said first curtain and said second curtain along at least a part of said curtain flow path and substantially over said curtain width associated therewith.

41. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein each of said first curtain and said second curtain has a curtain height of between about 40 mm and about 400 mm.

42. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said first curtain applicator unit and said second curtain applicator unit discharge said first application medium and said second application medium, respectively, onto said moving base at a rate of between about 4 l/min and about 100 l/min per meter of working width.

43. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said moving base has a base running speed associated therewith, said base running speed being up to 3000 m/min in the case of coating graphic papers, said base running speed being at least 200 m/min in the case of coating cardboard.

44. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said first curtain applicator unit and said second curtain applicator unit together produce a grammage of coated material web of between about 30 g/m² and about 150 g/m² in the case of coating graphic papers and between about 150 g/m² and 1000 g/m² in the case of coating cardboard.

45. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said apparatus is configured for processing a material web that is one of a paper web, a cardboard web, a film web and a textile web.